

REMARKS

Applicants submit that the present application, as currently amended, is in condition for allowance.

Claims 18, 23, 28, and 30-39 are pending, with claims 18, 23, and 28 amended, claims 30-39 added, and claims 1-17, 19-22, 24-27, and 29 cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Independent claims 18, 23, and 28 have been amended to more clearly describe and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. No new matter is added.

In response to the election requirement, Applicants provisionally elect with traverse species "e" - Fig 5B, 2 and 8. Claims 18, 23, and 28 read on the elected species.

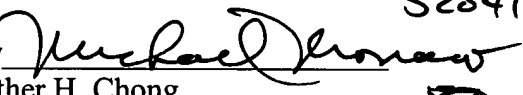
Applicants traverse the finding that species "d" (Figs. 5A, 2 and 8) and species "e" (Figs. 5B, 2 and 8) are distinct species. That is, Applicants submit that species "d" (Figs. 5A, 2 and 8) and species "e" (Figs. 5B, 2 and 8) both relate to Applicants' disclosed "embodiment 2." Therefore, Applicants submit it would not be an undue burden to examine claims directed to both species "d" and "e". Thus, Applicants request rejoinder of species "d" (Figs. 5A, 2 and 8) and species "e" (Figs. 5B, 2 and 8).

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco, Registration No. 52,041 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  52041
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